

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 13-30 have been canceled. New claim 31 has been added, and is directed to the elected subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 31 are now pending for further consideration on their merits.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserted that the claims are vague and indefinite because claim 1 is directed to a method of anodizing a “component,” but the last step in the method states that “the annular cylindrical surface” is anodized. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the preamble of claim 1 to recite a method for anodizing an annular cylindrical surface of a component. No narrowing has occurred. Applicant submits that this amendment makes claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, clear and definite as being a method for anodizing an annular cylindrical surface. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, as for document A6 from the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 19, 2002, upon consideration by the examiner, the examiner placed a notation of “no date given” for the document in the PTO 1449 form. Applicants note that the front page of the article itself carries an indication “P.D. 18-05-'88.” This reasonably indicates a publication date in May 1988. Applicants understand that the examiner has considered the article accordingly. Should the Applicants’ understanding be incorrect, the examiner is requested to indicate as much.

Finally, new claim 31 has been added, and is analogous to claim 1, except that it recites anodizing a predetermined surface of a component rather than anodizing an annular cylindrical surface of a component. Support for this claim is found throughout the original specification, including in original claim 1. In light of only have section 112, second paragraph rejections to claim 1, it is believed that this claim is allowable as well.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

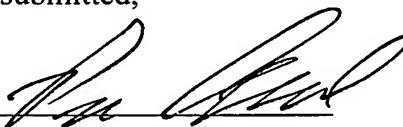
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date JUNE 2, 2004

By



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